



F.A. Cup
report by
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Davies goal earns a plum home draw

WYCOMBE recaptured their F.A. Cup glory days of the mid-seventies by earning a glamorous first round match against Fourth Division Bournemouth, thanks to their victory over Worcester City at Loakes Park on Tuesday night.

A goal five minutes before half time in their fourth qualifying round replay by defender Bobby Davies was all that separated the teams. But while Worcester go back to the routine of Alliance Premier League football, the Wanderers can revel in the spotlight once again.

The tie on November 22 against Bournemouth, whom Wycombe defeated six years ago, is sure to attract much national recognition, while the expected large crowd will boost the club's finances.

No corners

All this hung on the result of this fourth qualifying round replay and for that reason the tension was almost unbearable. It clearly affected the players, but there could be no doubting Wycombe's superiority.

They had achieved the hard part when Terry Glynn's late goal earned Wanderers a draw at Worcester on Saturday. The replay was completely dominated by Wycombe, who

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Worcester City 0

would have won by a much greater margin, had not so much depended on the result.

Worcester, whose performances over the two ties must cast into doubt the Alliance League's apparently exalted status, did not force a single corner throughout the 90 minutes of the replay and only in the last ten minutes did they threaten to score.

The Wanderers looked a class above their opponents — but their most noticeable advantage was pace. The visitors just had no answer to the speed at which Wycombe manoeuvred the ball around the field.

All the 50-50 tackles went Wycombe's way while their passing was as accurate as I can remember. Only the final

pass was lacking, and that is the reason they did not score more than one goal.

Worcester's intention was clear from the start, when they fielded a defensive 4-4-2 formation. They did not produce a single goal attempt in the first half, while the home side had several chances.

Steve Hardwick and Glynn tested Jimmy Cumbes early on, while only a timely interception by Kevin Tudor robbed Gary Toll of a clear chance.

Worcester's main tactic appeared to be — foul the man with the ball. They gave away numerous free-kicks but referee Dennis Hedges, who had sent both Tony Price and City defender Paul Bevan off the field in the first

match, did not once resort to his notebook this time. He even ignored a scuffle between Hardwick and Barry Lowe, choosing instead to give them just a stern lecture.

It was following a foul by Lowe that Wycombe scored in the 40th minute. He obstructed George Borg on the left edge of the penalty area, thus conceding an indirect free-kick.

Steve Long curled the ball into the middle. A defender flicked it on to the far post where Davies reacted first to head past the advancing Cumbes.

Only goal

Loakes Park erupted in delight as the popular Davies was mobbed by his colleagues. Eighteen months ago he took a rest from football because he was not enjoying it. That thought was far from his mind at this moment.

The importance of a goal at this time cannot be stressed too highly. If Wanderers had gone in at the interval still level, they could easily have become more frustrated as the game progressed.

Instead they had a crucial advantage and their main task in the second half was to protect it. With the young Bob Dell controlling much of the mid-field play with some neat first time touches, Wanderers stayed in command.

Worcester's first real chance came in the 72nd minute when Billy Telford grazed the crossbar with a fine header. Immediately Mike Keen brought on substitute Tony Price for Steve Long, who had appeared a little groggy after receiving a bang on the head in the second minute.

The visitors changed their tactics in a final bid to snatch an equaliser, but their best efforts from substitute Eric Bowen and Barry Williams went wide of the target. Gary Lester did not have a direct shot to save all the game.

At the final whistle the players jumped for joy in the knowledge that they now have a chance to build on Wycombe's reputation as cup giant-killers.

WYCOMBE: G. Lester, P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, R. Dell, S. Long (sub: A. Price 72 mins), J. Jacobs, T. Glynn, G. Toll, M. Hollifield.

WORCESTER: J. Cumbes, G. Selby, M. Chambers, K. Tudor, M. Phelps, B. Lowe, G. Stevens, G. Williams, W. Telford, S. Crompton (sub: E. Bowen 59 mins), B. Beresford.

Referee: D. Hedges (Oxford).
Half-time: 1-0. **Scorer:** Wycombe — Davies (40 mins).
Attendance: 1,993.

Price doubt

TONY Price, who suffered a knock after coming on as substitute against Worcester, may miss tomorrow's Berger Isthmian League visit to Dagenham.

Price was hobbling after the match and should he fail a fitness test, then new signing Ken Wilson from Hounslow would come into the side. Wilson, 24, made his debut against Harrow last week and looked a useful prospect.

This could be a really tough game for the Blues, who have a hard programme before the Bournemouth cup tie. To ease the pressure Mike Keen says he will give certain players a rest.

Mr Keen said he was looking forward to the Bournemouth match. "As we have already shown, we've always got a chance. But they'll be well prepared. My old boss Alec Stock has done a bit of giant-killing himself with Yeovil."

Stock and Keen meet again

A SHUDDER went down the Bournemouth spine when they heard that Wycombe Wanderers had beaten Worcester and so earned a first round tie at home on Saturday, November 22.

Fans remember only too well what happened six years ago when the teams met in the second round. After a goalless draw at Loakes Park, Wycombe travelled to Dean Court and won the replay 2-1 with goals from Tony Horseman and Steve Perrin.

That took Wanderers into the third round for the first time in their history where they met Middlesbrough and

we all know what happened against them.

Only one player from the Bournemouth side that day is still with the club, namely midfielder man Keith Miller. There have been wholesale changes since then.

Small world

Bournemouth are now managed by the much respected Alec Stock, who led both Queens Park Rangers and Fulham to Wembley finals.

It was in 1966-67 that Mr Stock led QPR onto the field for the Football League Cup final and the man immediately behind him was skipper Mike Keen, who of course now manages

Wycombe. Who says it isn't a small world?

But the man with most of the team responsibilities these days is David Webb, who achieved his greatest moment in the FA Cup when he headed Chelsea's winning goal in the replayed final against Leeds in 1970.

Webb's official title is player coach but following a recent injury he has stopped playing. Under him the team are now placed tenth in Division Four, and goal-scoring seems to be their main problem — only 16 goals in 19 games.

The Wycombe survivors from the 1974 game are Paul Birdswye, Mick Hollifield and Howard Kennedy. The first two are certain to play in

this year's encounter, but Kennedy had a minor leg operation last week and will be out for a month.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southend	19	14	2	3	36	12	30
Lincoln	19	11	5	3	33	10	27
Mansfield	19	11	2	6	25	15	24
Aldershot	19	10	4	5	19	12	24
Hartlepool	19	10	3	6	29	23	23
Doncaster	19	9	4	6	21	26	22
Tranmere	19	9	3	7	30	23	21
Barrow	19	7	6	6	31	26	20
Bradford	19	6	7	6	24	24	19
Bournemouth	19	7	5	7	16	18	19
Nthampton	18	9	1	8	26	30	19
Wimbledon	19	8	2	9	24	21	18
Rochdale	19	8	6	7	26	29	18
Crewe	18	6	6	6	24	28	18
Stockport	19	6	6	7	21	27	18
Wigan	18	7	3	8	18	25	17
York	19	6	4	9	20	36	16
Darlington	19	7	2	10	23	31	16
Port Vale	18	6	3	9	26	17	15
Torquay	18	7	1	10	19	22	15
Storpe	19	4	7	8	20	27	15
Halifax	19	4	5	10	18	30	13
Bury	19	5	2	12	29	37	12
Hereford	18	2	7	9	14	21	11